

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: N. TAKAHASHI et al  
Serial No. 10/453,606  
Filed: June 4, 2003

Group Art Unit: 2813  
Examiner: C. Chaudhari  
For: A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A  
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND A  
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 24, 2004

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified  
application as follows: